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DOWNHAM MARKET ~~URBAN~~ DISTRICT COUNCIL.

~~THE TOWERS~~

GEO. FRED GROSS, M.B.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DOWNHAM, NORFOLK.

july 25th 1944.

K & C

M.O.H. Report Downham Rural District. 1943.

To,
The Assistant Secretary,
Ministry of Health.

Dear Sir,

Scabies. This disease is not unduly prevalent in this area, and there has been a marked decrease in the number of cases reported during 1943. The Council decided to supply Benzyl Benzoate free of charge to sufferers, who through lack of means were unable to afford it themselves. Cases brought to my notice by private practitioners, health visitors, school Medical Officers, or school nurses, are visited by my Sanitary Officer, and issued with an adequate supply of Benzyl Benzoate, where answered considered necessary.

Tuberculosis. No increase in cases reported.

Venereal Disease. No increase.

Diphtheria Immunization. Percentage of children immunised at 31st Dec.. 1943. Under 5 years, 52%. 5 - 15 yrs, 76%.

Water Supply. In the Downham Rural District 27 of the 33 parishes are on public mains. Our own undertaking supplies the parishes of Denver, Feltwell, Fordham, Hilgay, Hockwold, Methwold, Northwold, Ryston Southery, Stoke Ferry, Wereham, and Wretton, practically half the population of this district is supplied from the Council's mains. Welney is supplied by the Ely Rural District Council. The Wisbech Waterworks Company supply Crimpleham, Downham West, Fincham, Magdalan, Marham, Nordelph, St. Germans, St. Marys, Stow Bardolph, Stradsett, Tottenhill, Watlington, Wimbotsham and Wormegay, representing approximately 40% of the total population.

This company obtain their water from Marham, which is within this district. The 6 parishes without a piped supply are Barton Bendish, Boughton, Shouldham, Shouldham Thorpe, South Rington and West Bereham.

Barton Bendish. population 358, acreage 4,123 acres is a scattered parish. There are deep and surface wells, the water supply may be considered as satisfactory.

Boughton. population 225, although there are 14 houses with no supply on the premises, there are 12 good private wells supplying 27 houses, in addition to 3 deep wells on farms, supplying several cottages. In recent years 2 of these wells have been deepened from 70 feet to 120 feet in one case and 142 in the other. To supply this parish from our nearest main (Stoke Ferry) would entail the erection of a water tower at a suitable elevation, or the installation of a booster.

Shouldham. population 448 should present no difficulty as the trunk mains from Marham skirt the outer rings of the parish, there are 2 private services from these mains to 2 farms and cottages. In addition to two parish pumps there are 39 private wells.

10/10/2010
DOWNHAM MARKET

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Shouldham Thorpe. population 248, is reasonably well supplied, there are 17 private wells, the average depth being 28'0", and there are private services to two farms and cottages from the mains on the fringe of the parish.

South Runcton. 376 population, the Runcton Holme portion of this parish containing approximately half the population is badly in need of a public supply. One of the trunk mains from Marham cuts into and across the parish, the laying of mains should present no difficulty. A few houses are on the track at Runcton Bottom.

West Dereham. population 491, is the black spot in this district, there are few reliable wells, and many of the householders depend upon stored rain water and streams for their water supplies, the shortage is acute at certain periods. The nearest mains are in the adjoining parishes of Wereham and Wretton, the former if extended along the Flegg Green road would pick up 16 houses, the Wretton main continued from the Red Lion would connect up with it forming a loop and could be continued along the Low Road to West Dereham. These extensions present no engineering difficulties, materials and labour are available.

I beg strongly to recommend the Council to proceed with the work at West Dereham, South Runcton, and Runcton Holme.

G. F. Cross
M.O.H.

Downham Rural District.

